

[1st August 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

mills will be handed over with the condition that they will continue to run these mills at least for 10 years and protect the interests of permanent workers. BIFR has not passed final orders in this regard.

Slow down in production of Textiles

1191. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the overall trend in the Textiles Industry during the year 2000-2001 reflects a slow down in production;
- (b) if so, month-wise production trend during 2000-2001;
- (c) the factors responsible for slow down in production; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to correct the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. Textiles production showed a positive trend during 2000-2001 as shown below:—

Items	Unit	1999-2000	2000-2001 (P)	% Change
1 Total Yarn Production@	Million Kg.	3940	4079	3.53
2 Total Fabric Production#	Million Sq. Mtr.	39202	40833	2.89

@ includes cotton yarn, other spun yarn and man-made filament yarn.

includes cotton, blended, 100% non-cotton (including khadi, wool & silk).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Decline in textile exports

1192. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the textile exports have been gradually declining since the beginning of 2001;
- (b) if so, the percentage of decline in the exports of textiles till date and in terms of value;

(c) what reasons are attributed for the decline in textile exports and the countries where textile exports have declined; and

(d) how Government proposes to step up the exports of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per latest available DGCI&S data, the exports of textiles (fibres, yarns, fabrics, made-ups and garments) have increased to US\$ 3589.7 Million during January-April, 2001 as compared to US\$ 3238.5 Million during the corresponding period of 2000. However, a declining trend in growth of exports is noticed from the beginning of the year.

(c) The declining trend is mainly due to slowdown in the economies of some of the major importing countries like US.

(d) Government have been taking several measures from time to time to step up textile exports. Some of the important initiatives are as under:—

- (1) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of ready-made garment from the SSI sector.
- (2) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the Budget 2001-02 for creating clusters of excellence, i.e., apparel parks for production and export of garments. Besides a provision of Rs. 15 crores has also been made for scheme for improvement of infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.
- (3) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade. Inter Ministerial Committee to resolve the issues pertaining to assistance under TUFS has been constituted.
- (4) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%.
- (5) Technology Mission for Cotton has been launched for initiating focussed steps for boosting production, productivity and quality

of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products.

- (6) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (7) The import of a large number of garment machinery has been allowed under concessional custom duty of 5%.
- (8) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100%, through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.
- (9) To prepare and sensitise our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

Religious and Tourist places lacking in infrastructure facilities

1193. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of important tourist and religious places which are lacking in infrastructure facilities;
- (b) the amount spent for the development of such tourists and religious places for the past five years; State-wise;
- (c) whether Government is monitoring proper utilisation of funds and proper maintenance of tourist and religious places in different States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Infrastructure facilities at a large number of tourist/religious places need to be augmented/upgraded. Department of Tourism, Government of India, therefore, provides some financial assistance to States/UTs for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them every year.